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# folio

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## Brain chemical linked to obesity

*Research uncovers important clue about appetite control*

By Richard Cairney

Just as the World Health Organization issued new warnings about the dangers of unhealthy diets and the growing epidemic of obesity, a University of Alberta researcher's work has helped discover a chemical in the brain that helps to regulate appetite.

Research by Dr. Bill Colmers, with the Department of Pharmacology, is highlighted in current edition of the prestigious journal *Neuron*. As part of an international research effort, Colmers and his colleagues discovered that a chemical messenger called ghrelin, previously thought only to exist in the stomach, is also produced in the brain. And it plays a key role in creating the desire to eat.

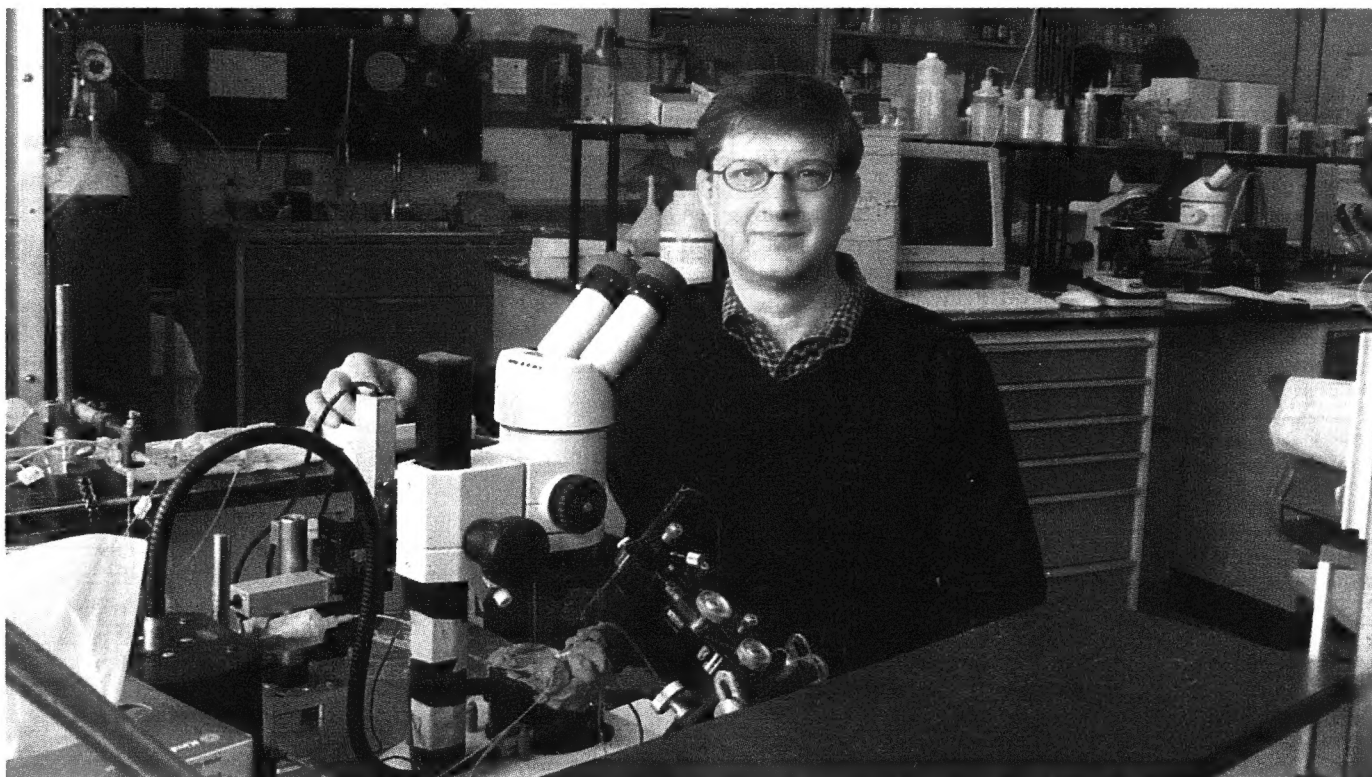
The report builds on previous research pioneered by Colmers, which demonstrated that another brain chemical, called NPY, makes people hungry. The new research shows that ghrelin regulates the secretion of NPY and inhibits appetite-suppressing neurons.

"What we are trying to do is find out how the brain senses energy balance in the body – how you know when you're full, and that you don't have to go to the gas station and fill up right away," said Colmers.

The WHO recently issued a study about the worldwide increase in obesity and related diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease. That effort was followed by recommendations from the Ottawa-based Centre for Science in Public Interest. Pegging the health care costs of poor diets and physical inactivity between \$6 billion and \$10 billion a year, the group called on government to ban junk-food ads aimed at children and eliminate GST charges on healthy meals to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Weight control is not only an important health issue – it is also big business, worth up to \$50 billion per year in North America, according to Toronto's J.C. Williams retail consultants.

The new research findings add important information to the understanding of eating disorders and how to treat them. The research found ghrelin in the hypothalamus – the part of the brain that con-



Richard Cairney

Dr. Bill Colmers is part of an international research team that is investigating brain chemicals that control our appetites.

trols physical functions. "The hypothalamus takes care of all the raw physiology. It is the machine room of the brain. It's the heating, the lights, all of that stuff," Colmers explained.

Experiments outlined in the *Neuron* paper show how the researchers found ghrelin near different sectors of the hypothalamus that are responsible for different jobs. Colmers theorizes that the ghrelin is patrolling those areas waiting for orders.

"All those areas are all big, important players in the regulation of energy balance," he said. And the ghrelin discovered in that area "seems poised to monitor signals between those nuclei."

The ghrelin is also found near a part of the brain called the suprachiasmatic nucleus, which governs our biological clocks. The passage of time, as well as the

amount of energy we burn off, Colmers notes, affects our appetites.

"I don't think there is going to be any simple cure that will take care of

everybody's pot belly. This gives us a better understanding of how the brain works to regulate energy, and the more we understand about this the more points we have to approach it from."

– Dr. Bill Colmers

part, able to naturally regulate their weight quite well.

He's trying to determine what changes have taken place in the brain of an obese person that causes them to eat more, in some cases, and burn less energy.

"Why the difference between the

energy being stored and the energy being burned?" Colmers asks.

The new findings, he says, may lead to the development of drugs that could help regulate appetite. But more importantly, he says, it leads to new questions.

"I don't think there is going to be any simple cure that will take care of everybody's pot belly," he said. "This gives us a better understanding of how the brain works to regulate energy, and the more we understand about this the more points we have to approach it from."

The research, which included scientists from Yale Medical School, Baylor College and the German Institute of Human Nutrition, among others, was spearheaded by Dr. Michael Cowley, of the Vollum Institute in Oregon. Cowley, who served as post-doctoral fellow for Colmers, last year contributed to a major study identifying a protein produced in the stomach that suppresses appetite once a person has had enough to eat, by inhibiting the production of NPY. ■



# Mathematician made her way through a man's world

Josephine Mitchell thanks U of A for encouragement

By Julie Naylor and Richard Cairney

Who would have known that, nearly 70 years ago, a professor's words of encouragement to a young woman would lead to the authorship of important research papers, the education of thousands of students and a bequest that will help teach thousands more?

The Faculty of Science at the University of Alberta has received a cheque for \$1.6 million (U.S.), a bequest from Dr. Josephine Mitchell, an alumnus of the Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences who graduated almost 70 years ago. It is the largest bequest the Faculty of Science has ever received and one of the largest in the history of the university.

The first of three daughters born to Benjamin and Kate Mitchell, Mitchell grew up in Edmonton, in a modest home near the General Hospital on Jasper Ave. The couple moved west in the early 1900s – Benjamin was a graduate of the University of Toronto and worked as a civil engineer. The Mitchells believed in life-long learning and all three of their daughters attended the U of A, even at a time when it was a relatively uncommon for women to attend university.

If it wasn't typical that women would attend university, it was even more unusual that Josephine pursued studies in math – a field dominated by men.

"We really want to honour the mathematics professors there, particularly Dr. Cook, who encouraged her to go into mathematics," said Josephine's sister, Alta Bento, who now lives in Hawaii.

"He was her freshman advisor, I think, and she couldn't decide whether she wanted to be in history or in math and he encouraged her to go into math. The faculty was really wonderful."

Gender issues would play an important role in Mitchell's career as a teacher and mathematician. After graduating from the U of A with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics in 1934, she went on to earn a master's degree and PhD from Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania.

"That was one reason why she went to Bryn Mawr College, which is a famous women's college, because she felt the pressure of being a woman in a man's field particularly during the 1930s," said Bento. "She started teaching at small women's colleges in eastern U.S."

Bento said Josephine met her husband, Lowell Schoenfeld, when they both taught at the University of Illinois. "Because of the rules there they were not able to continue on as faculty members as man and wife," said Bento.

Mitchell would have liked to have taught in Canada, but opportunities were few, especially for women.

"There was never any opportunity of her getting a position in Canada. At that

time, there wasn't a huge number of universities. She was lost in the crowd and being a woman in that field..."

From 1958 - 1968 she was associate professor, and later professor, at Pennsylvania State University. She then took a position at the University of Buffalo, where she taught until her retirement in 1982.

During her career Mitchell earned several grants from the National Scientific Foundation and a three-year grant from the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research.

Mitchell also earned the respect of her peers, publishing 39 papers and overseeing the work of seven PhD students.

"She had published a lot of work in the area of analysis," said Antyhony Lau, chair of the U of A's Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences. "She was very active

and did some great work."

Mitchell passed away Dec. 28, 2000, at the age of 88.

A letter written by her late husband, Schoenfeld, who recently passed away, indicated that it had always been Mitchell's intent to make a bequest to the mathematics department of her hometown alma mater. She died before she was able to include her plans in her will. In her honour, Schoenfeld was able to carry out her wishes through his will.

Bento, who is executor of Schoenfeld's estate, is delighted that the university is able to put these funds to good use in her sister's name. She's always been impressed by "the University of Alberta Mathematics Department that staunchly encouraged a quiet studious girl in the 1930s."

The bequest will support several initiatives within the Department of Mathematics and Statistical Sciences. These include endowments to fund the Dr. Josephine M. Mitchell Mathematics Library and the Dr. Josephine M. Mitchell graduate scholarships. In addition, the bequest will fund the Dr. Josephine M. Mitchell Environmental and Industrial



Josephine Mitchell, 1934.

Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, a state-of-the-art facility to be housed in a proposed Centre for Interdisciplinary Science.

"The proposals being advanced in my sister's name are so wonderful," Bento said. "They will provide advantages to students and researchers in an encompassing mathematical sphere that she would have found exciting and would have been absolutely delighted to sponsor." She called the Faculty of Sciences "far-seeing" in its vision for the Centre for Interdisciplinary Science.

"This is truly a generous gesture from an alumnus," said Dr. Gregory Taylor, acting dean of Science. "My only regret is that we never had the opportunity to meet Dr. Mitchell and talk about what made her experience at the U of A so memorable that she would make such a significant contribution to our future."

But all anyone needs to do is look up Mitchell, affectionately known as 'Joey' to family and friends, in the 1934 Green and Gold Forever yearbook. The message beside her picture in the reads: "A great mathematician, scholar, and true friend. Good luck, Joey."

"That says it all," said Bento. "She was all of those things." ■

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## Science increases admission standard

Space isn't available for record numbers of students

By Geoff McMaster

The University of Alberta Faculty of Science has raised its admission standard by 10 per cent to cope with a staggering increase in applications.

Students applying to the U of A must now have a high school grade average of at least 80 per cent to be eligible for registration, up from 70 per cent last year, said Dr. Greg Taylor, acting dean of science. The faculty has reached its physical limit, Taylor said, and cannot accommodate a sharp rise in enrolment.

"I'm doing the only thing I can do, which is to say, 'We're full,'" he said. "We don't have the lecture theatres, and we don't have the labs" for many more students.

He added, however, that the standard will be reviewed on a weekly basis as applications continue to come in.

"However, I'm not optimistic it's going to change." He said the new standard could mean about 1,000 students who thought they were eligible for admission will be turned away.

The number of first-year students enrolled for 2002-2003, about 2,500, was a jump of 24 per cent from the previous year, causing enrolment in the faculty to hit 6,122, which is 367 beyond its target.

The increase accounted for 78 per cent of the enrolment growth at the U of A overall, "the single largest increase we have experienced in modern times," Taylor said, adding that an additional \$5 million in operating funds is required to accommodate that growth.

The number of applications for next fall, 3,000 so far, is up by 50 per cent beyond last year's swelled numbers. And even with the higher standard, the faculty may face a 7.5 per cent increase in enrolment, which it will just barely be able to absorb, Taylor said.

While the increase reflects the continuation of a long-term trend, Taylor said he can't explain why the number of applications is so dramatically high this year.

Students may be trying to get a jump on the double cohort of students graduating from Ontario high schools, but that hasn't shown up in other faculties. He said the likelihood is that high school students are becoming more interested in science.

The biggest enrolments in the science faculty are in first-year chemistry, biology, and math. "In these courses, lecture hall space, laboratory space, and availability of trained personnel for teaching are all major issues," Taylor said. "We just don't have the physical capacity to take more students."

In the long term, however, he says there are plans for a new science building to go up within the next five years, which will ease some of the pressure.

The Faculty of Arts has also increased its admission standard, to 72 per cent from 70, in order to roll back enrolment over the next two to three years to 5,650 from its current 5,911. ■



## A delicate balance

**More women are making careers in academia but few choose leadership roles**

By Gilbert A. Bouchard

An on-going multi-year study undertaken by University of Alberta researchers has both good news and bad news about gender equity on Canada's university campuses. For starters, there have never been more women enrolled in undergraduate programs, with many faculties showing a rough parity between men and women. Not only are the undergraduate numbers reaching equality between the sexes, research also shows that relatively small changes to the academic climate can have huge impact on gender participation in the hard sciences.

The bad news is that despite the huge increase in undergraduate enrolment, women aren't continuing on to post-graduate studies as they should and are under-represented in decision making positions, say two of the study's authors, Dr. Helen Madill, graduate programs coordinator with the Centre for Health Promotion Studies and a professor of Occupational Therapy; and Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour, assistant chair, Chemistry and vice-chair of the WISEST (Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology) program.

A 2002 interim report has just been released looking at the proportion of women in university decision-making positions in science, engineering and technology in 12 of Canada's major universities. It also examines how support and resources factor in women's career transitions in the sciences. Earlier parts of the



**"When 50 per cent of students in undergraduate biology are women, for example, but only 20 per cent of high decision-making positions are women, then you have to ask some questions."**

— Dr. Helen Madill

project looked at how one goes about attracting women to science careers from high school to the end of their undergraduate studies.

**"You may go into administration at the level of chair simply because it's your turn and somebody has to do it, but then you happily go back to being a full-time faculty member. There's all kinds of pressure on people and in an environment of budget cuts and other griefs, administration is not always very appealing."**

— Dr. Dallas Cullen

"When 50 per cent of students in undergraduate biology are women, for example, but only 20 per cent of high decision-making positions are women, then you have to ask some questions," said Madill, noting the most basic query: why aren't women who are already enrolled cascading through the system?

"We've been seeing this for quite some time right now and it was just assumed that these women (undergraduate students) would move up right through the system, but it's not happening exactly like that," said Armour. "We're seeing women at the associate and assistant professor level women opting to not to go into academic positions and more of the high-achieving undergraduate women students chose not to go on and do a PhD compared to their equally qualified peers. We're losing the pool and the women are intentionally opting out."

Madill cites a study documenting a similar situation in the U.K., where 38 per cent of undergrads, 25 of post-doctoral researchers, 18 per cent of overall academic staff, and only two per cent of professorial staff were women.

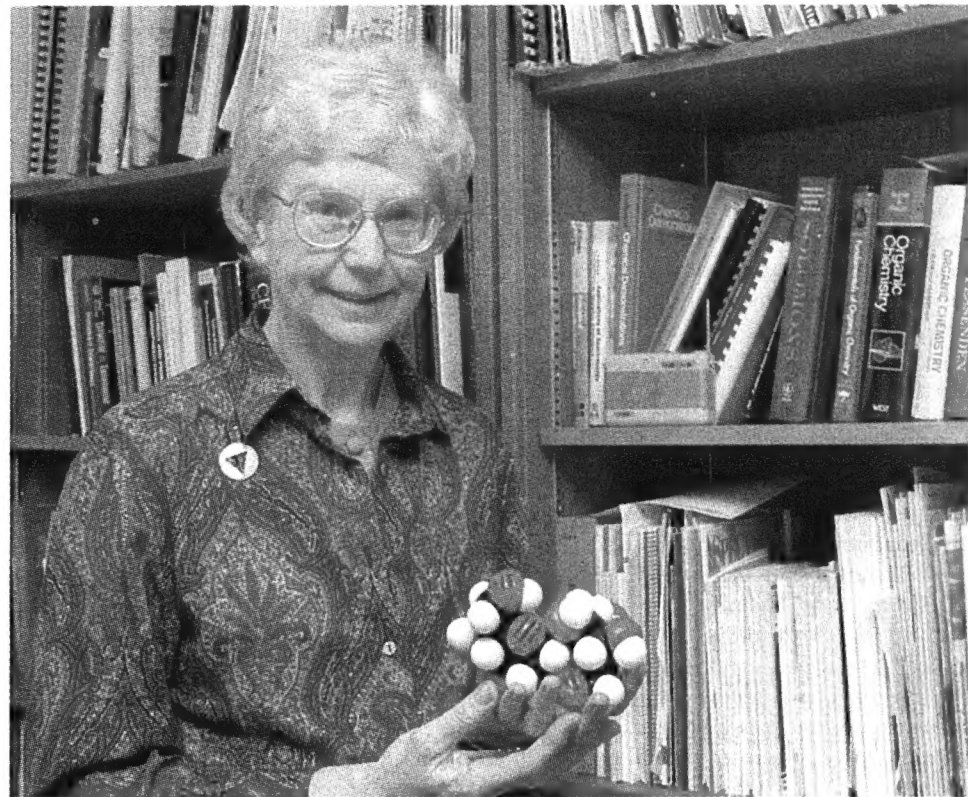
Given that the concern is no longer the quantity of available women scholars in the undergraduate stream, Madill and Armour's work focuses on exploring how women can be supported into making a transition into the upper levels of university research and administration positions.

"We're looking at creating tools to help broaden the information available to women as they make the decision to move on and make an informed decision based on fact rather than perception or based on not always dependable information passed on by friends," said Armour.

One of the results of the work on the various studies is to start the development of a resource network (on-line and interactive), says Madill. Initially this support network will start with senior undergraduate students going into graduate studies.

The studies have also underlined how small changes in the academic and workplace culture can have excellent results not only in retaining women in academia, but can make the environment more comfortable for men as well. "We've seen in the study that the culture of workplace is more important to women than men, but that changes to that culture that make it more attractive for women make it more attractive for everybody," Armour said. Changes can be as simple as using fewer male-dominated sports references or starting written text materials with concrete examples of principles rather than abstract theories.

Madill stresses that co-op programs, field and lab experiences are critical in



Drs. Margaret-Ann Armour (above) and Helen Madill are trying to find out why women in academia aren't taking on positions in senior administration.

retaining women, as well as initiating positive mentorship relationships between women students and "excited people in the industry".

"A recent study (findings of *Men's and Women's Quality of Work in the New Canadian Economy* by Karen Hughes, Graham S. Lowe, and Grant Schellenberg) shows how important respect, two-way commitment, communications and workplace relations are for women, who will walk if those expectations not being met," said Madill. "Women are looking for stability."

Another obstacle to getting more women into administrative positions, says Dr. Dallas Cullen, a participant in the study, chair of the Women's Studies Program and a School of Business professor specializing in gender and organizations, is that many academics — including talented women candidates, don't want to be in administration.

"In business it's given that you want to climb to the top, but many people in university are ambitious about their teaching and scholarly work and not for administration," said Cullen. "You may go into administration at the level of chair simply because it's your turn and somebody has to do it, but then you happily go back to being a full-time faculty member. There's all kinds of pressure on people and in an environment of budget cuts and other griefs, administration is not always very appealing."

Yet, despite the barriers, Cullen knows it's not only "simple justice" to strive for parity in decision making positions, but also a necessary step any healthy organization needs to take. "If your senior executive group comes from a similar background, looks all the same, and shares all

the same common views and experience, you run the risk of limited perspective in decision making. Women are likely to have different views." As a case in point, adds Cullen, New York Times articles have

**"As always, excellence is paramount in hiring, but we need to make sure we don't overlook people, which means allowing for opportunities to display and develop skills and creating mentoring or formal staff programs."**

— Dr. John Hoddinott

underlined that whistle blowers at Enron and in the FBI were women, "perhaps because women are outsiders, and are able to stand back and say this isn't right and not getting caught up with what was going on."

Continuing to echo the need to "look at ourselves and how we operate" Dr. John Hoddinott, president of the AASUA, adds that administrators in the university system are traditionally identified at a very early stage of their careers and

"move through rather quickly."

"We have to make sure that women are in on those lower administrative rungs and realize that they are on a career path at a very early age," he said. "Early decisions are very pivotal. As always, excellence is paramount in hiring, but we need to make sure we don't overlook people, which means allowing for opportunities to display and develop skills and creating mentoring or formal staff programs." In the end, people need to know those options are available and need to want to take them up, he says, stressing the university's larger responsibility to the community and business world to serve as a role model.

"It is a question of living our beliefs that we are an inclusive organization and everyone can rise to the highest levels in the institution," he said. "The situation has changed over the 25 years I've been in academia, and while it might not be what we'd like to have, it's moving in the right direction." ■



# A matter of grave importance

*David Marples uncovers the past, and earns accolades*

By Richard Cairney

Some time during the mid and late 1930s someone, probably the Soviet secret police, murdered thousands of people, execution-style, and buried them in the Kuropaty forest in Belarus.

Almost 70 years later, the way David Marples tells it, conducting research into a dark secret no one wants you to know about, isn't much fun.

As just the third foreigner to conduct research at the Belarus national archives in Minsk, Marples was required to fill in a form stating the title of his research topic. He invented a title "to sound suitably harmless," he told an audience assembled at the annual Kaplan Awards ceremony at the Timms Centre for the Arts March 4.

At the archives, Marples' work plodded on slowly. Documents aren't filed according to any apparent system. "And to make a copy of a document involves a tortuous procedure and a walk around the entire building with an archivist, that takes up to a half hour each time. So one needs commitment and inexhaustible patience to work in Belarus, along with a lot of luck, and the effrontery to bribe those who can help with the appropriate gifts – and in this situation vodka works best."

Marples, a professor in the Department of History and Classics who specializes in Eastern European studies, became interested in the Kuropaty slayings by accident. An internationally renowned author and researcher who has been consulted by Canadian and American federal governments for advice on Eastern Europe, Marples rose to prominence by studying the many aspects of the 1986 nuclear disaster at Chernobyl. When he was invited to investigate the devastating impact the incident had on Belarus, he began to hear stories of Zyanon Paznyak, a local archaeologist who had discovered the mass graves in 1988.

Paznyak estimated there could be as many as 250,000 victims buried in the forest, 15 km north of the capital city of Minsk. He also learned the burials began in the mid 1930s. The earlier graves contained Soviet citizens, mostly peasants. But in the later periods, clothing on the victims was of Polish origin, suggesting the victims were from the western regions of Poland annexed by Belarus in September of 1939. The graves contained men and women but no children. The victims usually died of a single gunshot to the back or side of the head. Bullets appeared to have been made for Soviet revolvers. Paznyak also found evidence of an earlier exhumation of some of the bodies and a careless reburial of them.

When word of his discovery broke, the public, caught between its loyalty to the Soviet Union and the winds of glasnost and perestroika blowing through the republics, demanded an inquiry. The official version of the story suggests there are at least 30,000 victims, and lays blame at the feet of Nazi Germany, whose soldiers moved into the area in June 1941, after the bodies had been buried.

To this day, the truth of the matter is denied in official circles. But Marples has, once again, worked to uncover irrefutable facts. Researching just such an event is just the sort of thing Marples thrives on, his colleagues say. His academic record proves the point: he has authored eight books and has been published extensively in academic journals and in the mainstream media. In 1998 he received the Shevchenko Medal from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress in Winnipeg, the highest award that the Congress can bestow upon an individual for community service. In 1999 he received the Research prize for full professors in the Faculty of Arts.

His findings on the Kuropaty slayings,



Dr. David Marples has received the J. Gordin Kaplan Award.

like those of the now-exiled archaeologist Paznyak, are contrary to the facts as recited by officials in Belarus, who still cling tightly to their old Communist Party ways. But Marples believes the truth will one day be accepted, even at the scene of the crime.

To make the point Marples relates a story of being hauled off a train when he entered Belarus without a visa. "I was taken from the train and one of the three border guards – I had one on either side of me and one behind, just like I was being

imprisoned – asked me what my purpose there was. I told him 'I am here to study your history.' 'But we have no history here,' he replied, without a trace of humour.

"Nations often rewrite their history but they rarely forget it," he said. "Ultimately even this forgotten crime of Stalin will become equated with the emergence of a modern, post-Soviet state. And the thousands of victims might then cease to be nameless numbers from this brutal decade of the 1930s." ■

## In search of natural antibiotics

*Vederas earns Kaplan Award for distinguished research*

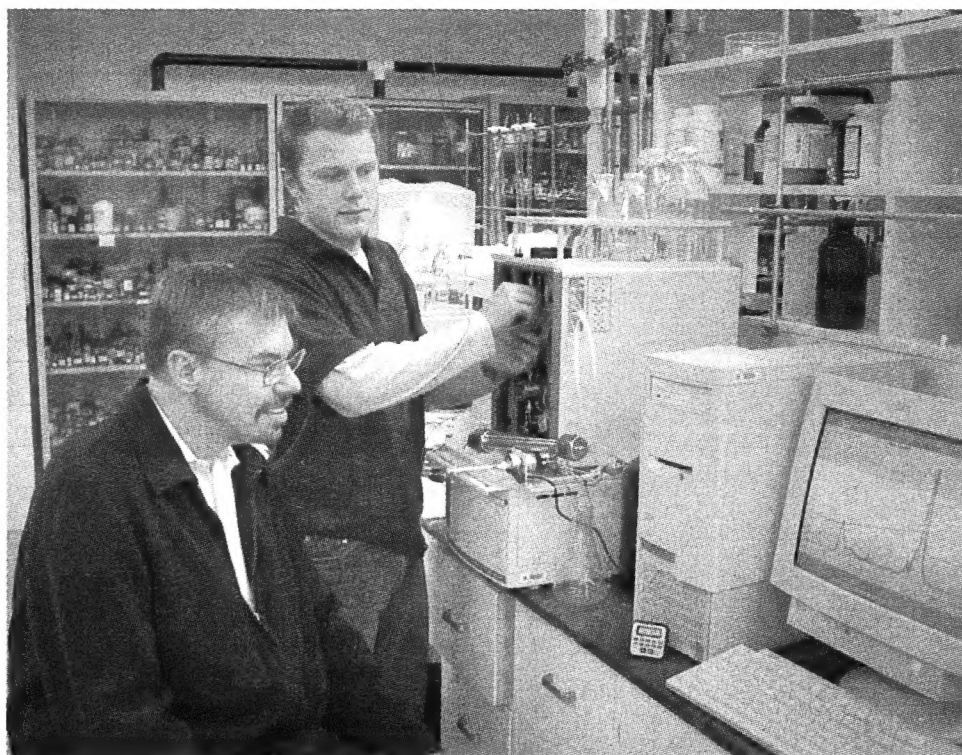
By Quinn A.C. Nicholson

If the maxim "you are what you eat" is true, University of Alberta bio-organic chemist Dr. John Vederas can probably tell you quite a bit about yourself. The U of A professor and researcher spends a lot of time thinking about food. Specifically, he's looking at ways of synthesizing naturally occurring antibiotics, produced by lactic acid bacteria in food, so that we can manufacture them.

"When these antibiotics target a harmful bacteria, they do so because they find a specific protein that allows them to dock," said Vederas. "We're working to identify these proteins and synthesize new antibiotics that will recognize them. We're never quite sure what we're going to come up with, but that's part of the excitement of discovery."

"Useful Drugs from Common Bugs" was the subject of Vederas' lecture when he received the J. Gordin Kaplan Award for Excellence in Research, the U of A's most prestigious research prize. Named for the U of A's first vice-president of research, two Kaplan Awards are presented annually, one for excellence in the sciences or engineering, and one for excellence in the general area of humanities, social sciences, law, education, or fine arts.

Dr. Vederas' research on how proteins function has led to a staggering array of promising new products, processes, and drugs. Applications range from cholesterol-lowering drugs and natural food



Dr. John Vederas' research led to the development of new products, processes, and drugs. Applications range from cholesterol-lowering drugs and natural food preservatives to medicines for combating viral infections and preventing premature births.

preservatives to medicines for combating viral infections and preventing premature births. Vederas' studies have garnered international acclaim for both himself and the University of Alberta.

This isn't the first time Dr. Vederas has been recognized for his outstanding contributions. His impressive range of research and teaching awards, spanning a 25-year career at the U of A, includes the

Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the University Cup for Research and Teaching, and several prestigious national awards for his contributions to organic chemistry.

When asked about his successes, Dr. Vederas is quick to praise others. "I don't work in a vacuum," he said, acknowledging the twelve graduate and five postdoctoral fellows with whom he collaborates. He points out that he also could not do the peptide antibiotics work without Drs. Michael Stiles and Lynn McMullen in the Faculty of Agriculture.

Vederas' work is funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research.

Currently serving as president of the Canadian Society for Chemistry, Vederas is an international collaborator who believes strongly in a multidisciplinary approach to both teaching and research. A charismatic lecturer, his philosophy is quite modest: "I like to pull techniques from many different areas."

"Part of the joy of solving problems is discovering a new tool to use. My collaborators do the laboratory work, and my students teach themselves. My job is to provide them with enthusiasm and direction."

He adds: "On that note, I just got back from a two-week trip, and I now have 600 e-mails to confront." ■



# Government isn't keeping track of escaped salmon

**Passive measures underestimate risk to native species**

By Phoebe Dey

New research shows that Atlantic salmon are escaping from their British Columbia fish farms at an alarming rate and putting native species at risk – a discovery that proves the federal government's current method of evaluating the fish isn't working, says a University of Alberta scientist.

Dr. John Volpe, a U of A fisheries ecologist in the Faculty of Science, has just published a study in *The Alaska Fishery Research Bulletin* that outlines how he measured the number of escaped farmed Atlantic salmon in a region of intense salmon farm activity.

During the 17-day salmon fishing season in 2000, Volpe and his research team recorded the capture of 10,826 Atlantic salmon by 249 different fishing vessels in one of about 40 West Coast fishing zones. The figure is 40.8 per cent higher than the 7,833 escaped Atlantic salmon recorded by the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) over the whole year, along the entire B.C. coast, says Volpe.

"The message coming out of fisheries and oceans is false," said Volpe. "Their numbers fly in the face of the data we found, and these escapees are endangering other species."

In 1998, Volpe discovered that Atlantic salmon, having escaped from B.C. salmon farms, had successfully reproduced in a Vancouver Island river. Now he's trying to find out to how much of a threat the more aggressive Atlantic salmon are to native species.

"We want to know what level of risk Atlantics pose to native stocks, and the only official data to come out to date are the Fisheries and Oceans Canada estimates, and this paper shows those estimates significantly underestimate the risk," he said.

To reach that conclusion, Volpe and his research team recorded the number of Atlantic salmon captured by commercial salmon fishers for the 2000 commercial fishing season in a region off the north-eastern coast of Vancouver island. The area they worked in yields an average of 1.8 million salmon per year and is home to 35 salmon farm sites that contain up to 1.5 million salmon per farm. Volpe's team broadcast radio requests to fishers in the area 10 times daily and visited all vessels within range of their own research craft to gather samples and confirm radio reports.

Multinational companies are capitalizing on a world-wide demand for salmon by growing Atlantics, deemed easier to farm than native Pacific species, in open-net cages along the B.C. coast. Young salmon are reared in fresh-water hatcheries and then moved to sea cages to be grown to market size. A 10-year moratorium on new fish farms in B.C. has just been lifted. Approximately 100 of the operations dot the waters off the West Coast.

Volpe's discovery of Atlantics breeding in territory occupied by the more docile Pacific salmon came after assurances from the provincial and federal governments that the salmon wouldn't be able to escape, and if they did, they wouldn't survive or reproduce, Volpe said.

"The Pacific salmon is already at the edge, having faced such factors as loss of habitat, global warming, and pollution. They now have one more insult that may be the last straw on the camel's back. This is a very serious issue, not only for the species, but for the economy," Volpe said.

In Alaska alone, Pacific salmon are a crucial resource and are responsible for 47 per cent of the private sector jobs. While salmon farming is not permitted in Alaska, Atlantic salmon are clearly ranging consid-



Dr. John Volpe, seen here with a male chinook salmon, has discovered a federal program monitoring the number of fish that escape from fish farms isn't delivering accurate figures.

erable distances from their farms of origin, Volpe said.

Volpe figures that federal fisheries officials don't have accurate numbers on escaped salmon because their reporting program is passive. And he feels salmon fishers' mistrust of federal officials fuels a reluctance to report captured Atlantic salmon. After a successful start, fishers began to ignore the federal reporting program, he said.

"Rightly or wrongly, there is a sense that skippers would be identified as 'problem children' and would be in a position

to feel the wrath of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans...that is the sense that I was getting," said Volpe, who is now launching a new initiative that calls for full reporting of captured Atlantic salmon, which will allow his research team to access biological samples of these fish.

Among the salmon fishing community, Volpe said, the researchers have more credibility than government officials, "because we are not the DFO, there is a sense out there that we will pursue this to its logical conclusion." ■

## folio letters to the editor

### Whither PowerPoint?

**Editor, Folio:**

Recently I have felt increasing pressure to adopt PowerPoint technology for my undergraduate Microbiology lectures. By this, I mean using PowerPoint or similar software to prepare slides for projection during class, commonly with the same slides being made available to the class for downloading from a course Web site before the lecture. Currently I lecture using a combination of writing on overhead acetate rolls, using prepared colour transparencies and occasionally projecting Web site or CD-ROM audio-visual material, and have resisted converting to "e-lectures". Consequently, in addition to mulling over the idea each summer of transferring my lecture notes to PowerPoint files, I have been attending University Teaching Services (UTS) presentations on new teaching technologies. This term, after attending my second UTS seminar on PowerPoint in one week, I decided to ask my class what they thought about PowerPoint lectures. Their answers were surprising and enlightening.

In our straw poll, more than two-thirds of the 180 primarily second-year Science students had taken or were taking classes delivered with PowerPoint content. The vocal (and surprisingly vehement) response to the question "How do you like

PowerPoint lectures?" was "Boo!" and thumbs-down signs. A small minority responded that they preferred PowerPoint and that it was completely appropriate in some courses.

When invited to e-mail me about their opinion of PowerPoint lecturing, students brought both points of view forward. In the negative, students often found the lectures boring, with the professor becoming "the computer's voice" or a "talking head" and distanced from the students behind the podium. Some lecturers seemed to cover material more quickly at the expense of explanation and discussion. Sometimes the technology failed, causing frustration for all parties.

On the positive side, some students liked having access to the lecture content (the "handout" format files posted on the Web) prior to the class so they could spend more time listening and less time taking notes in class. The contrary view was that some students learned more by taking detailed notes than by jotting down incidental notes on a printed handout. The readability of projected text versus instructors' handwriting was a positive point, as was the accessibility of notes for classes that the student missed.

Obviously, students learn in different ways, and we should expect diverse opin-

ions on the subject. One of my students made the excellent observation that the medium used for teaching was secondary to the skill of the lecturer. A poor lecturer cannot hide behind a flashy computer presentation - well, not for long, anyway - and a good lecturer can enthrall a class with blackboard and chalk.

On the whole, however, my class's immediate and predominantly negative response to PowerPoint lecturing in introductory courses gives pause for thought. I know I'm not the only academic to ponder conversion to PowerPoint. Where is this perceived pressure coming from? Our colleagues who do use PowerPoint and make the rest of us feel like Luddites? Those who wrongly equate high-tech with high quality? Student comments (or our interpretation of same)?

I asked Bente Roed (director of UTS) whether UTS had ever taken exit polls of student satisfaction with PowerPoint lectures; they have not. So here is my suggestion: If you currently are using PowerPoint lectures, add a question to your standard Instructor Designated Questionnaire ratings form this term, asking whether your students were satisfied with the lecture format. If you are not yet using the technology, ask whether the students think it would have improved delivery or compre-

hension of the course material. Then let UTS and your colleagues know the outcome.

In the end, it is student learning that is paramount. It is my contention that we should not assume that PowerPoint lectures are the best route to this goal. What do your students think?

**Julia Foght PhD**  
Associate Professor  
Biological Sciences  
University of Alberta

## folio letters to the editor

Folio welcomes letters to the editor. Send your thoughts and opinions via e-mail to richard.cairney@ualberta.ca, fax at 492-2997, or by mail to Folio, Office of Public Affairs, 6th Floor General Services Building, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H1. Letters may be edited for grammar, style, accuracy and length.



# CFI grants will equip new research efforts

*Programs cover everything from spinal cord research to soil sciences*

By Ryan Smith

University of Alberta research on spinal cord injury, sustainable forestry management, and the respiratory system have received a boost from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). Dr. Karim Fouad, Dr. Scott Chang, and Dr. Greg Funk are now able to buy a total of nearly \$800,000 worth of equipment to support their research projects.

Fouad, an Alberta Heritage Scholar who came to the U of A in 2001 after studying most recently in Switzerland, hopes the CFI grant will help to promote research to understand regeneration and plasticity in injured spinal cords.

Regeneration refers to the laboratory-induced regeneration of axons in injured spinal cords. Long thought to be impossible, some regeneration of axons has been achieved, but, Fouad said, even if scientists can promote regeneration anatomically, "the challenge then is to find out whether regenerated axons can be functionally reconnected. Right now, not much is known about this."

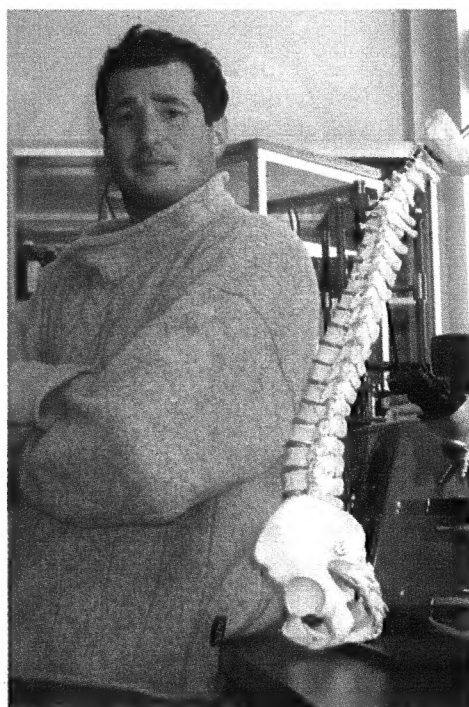
With regard to spinal cord research, plasticity can refer to a "reconnection" between areas of the body where function has been lost due to spinal cord injury and parts of the spinal cord that are still functioning properly. Using animal models, Fouad and his research team are trying to find out how healthy axons may be "rewired" to serve the areas of the body they were originally programmed to serve at birth as well as serve new areas that have been affected by a spinal cord injury.

"Lately we've had some pretty cool results," Fouad said. "Not so much in the area of regeneration, but we've had great success in promoting plasticity."

A professor in the U of A Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, Fouad sees his research as one of many possible advancements in the field of spinal cord research. "Human physiology is so complex that there are many factors involved; and many processes work together as the body and brain try to recover lost function."

Chang said, "this (CFI) announcement is wonderful, because it allows me to increase research capabilities within my research group as well as within my department."

He plans to buy an atomic absorption machine and an infrared spectrometer, among other equipment, to aid his analysis of nutrients in forestry soils.



Dr. Karim Fouad will be able to pursue research into spinal cord regeneration with the assistance of a CFI grant.

Currently a professor at the University of Auckland, Funk will use his grant when he arrives at the U of A this summer and sets up his lab in the department of physiology, where he will focus on molecular physiological analysis of voltage-clamped respiratory neurons.

The grants earned by U of A researchers were among the 96 research projects at 26 Canadian universities to receive a total of \$17.7 million from the Canada Foundation for Innovation. The grants were awarded through two funds: \$13.7 million under the New Opportunities Funding, and \$4 million under the Infrastructure Operating Fund to help universities with related operating and maintenance costs. Unlike other CFI programs, the Infrastructure Operating Fund has no requirement for matching funds.

The projects were selected on the recommendation of experts who assessed each project against the three CFI criteria: quality of research and need for infrastructure; contribution to strengthening the capacity for innovation; and potential benefits of the research to Canada. ■

# talks & events

Submit talks and events to Cora Doucette by 9 a.m. one week prior to publication. **Folio Talks and Events listings will no longer accept submissions via fax, mail, e-mail or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in Folio and on ExpressNews at: <http://www.expressnews.ualberta.ca/ualberta/L2.cfm?c=10>**

## UNTIL APR 2003

**Campus Observatory** The Campus Observatory is open to the general public every Thursday night beginning at 8 p.m. during the academic year, with the exception of holiday periods. The Observatory is operated by faculty and student volunteers belonging to SPACE (Students for the Promotion of Astronomy, Culture and Education). For further information, please contact Dr. S. Morsink at 492-3987.

## UNTIL APR 06 2003

**Room Measures** Art Exhibition called 'Room Measures' curated by Agnieszka Matejko. Sculptural Furniture which challenges preconceived notions on what is art and what is craft. Runs from Feb. 1-April 6. Gallery is open from 10-8 p.m. Mon thru Fri; 1-8 p.m. Sat & Sunday, located at the 112 street entrance to the U of A Hospital. Location: McMullen Art Gallery, U of A Hospital.

## MAR 07 2003

**Department of Biological Sciences** Department of Biological Sciences Biology 631 Ecology Seminar Series. Susan Hannon, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta, presents a talk on "Source sink dynamics of American redstarts in an agricultural landscape." 12 noon in Room M-149 of the Biological Sciences Building. Web site: <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/biol631/>

**Department of Philosophy** Professor Patricia Kitcher, Department of Philosophy, Columbia University, will speak on "Kant's Argument for the Categorical Imperative." Time: 3 p.m. Location: Humanities Centre 4-29.

**Department of Public Health Sciences** Environmental Health Sciences seminar. Dr. Charles Lucy, Department of Chemistry, will present: "Appropriate Technology in Analytical Separations." 2:00 p.m. Location: 10-102 CSB.

**Department of English** John Weaver will present "Learning from Postcolonial Studies: Criminal Trials as Texts." 12 noon. Location: HC L-3.

**Math Fair** Math Fair for elementary and junior high student and their teachers. It will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Location: Dinwoodie Lounge.

**Health Ethics Seminars** Event sponsored by John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre. Bioethics Week Event. Time: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Title: "Why Nurses Should Not Be Patient Advocates" Presenters: Glenn Griener, PhD Associate Professor, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre and Dept of Public Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and Dept of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta and Jennifer Welchman, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta. Location: Room 231, Medical Sciences Building. Web site: [www.ualberta.ca/bioethics](http://www.ualberta.ca/bioethics)

**Spanish in Mexico** Un, dos, tres...learn Spanish in Mexico! Participate in a 4-week Spanish Language and Culture program at the Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara. Choose from June 16-July 11 or July 14-August 8. Information Session Friday March 7 at 2:00 p.m. Location: International Centre.

**University Teaching Services** Paula Blashko, Julie Crockett, Teddi Doupe, Danielle Fullerton, and Sheila Manohar, Educational Psychology, present "What We Learned About Teaching: the Hard Way." The panel, composed of instructors teaching in a multi-sectioned course, share their experiences of teaching small groups for the first time. Noon-1:30 p.m., Education South, 3-15. Web site: [www.ualberta.ca/~uts](http://www.ualberta.ca/~uts)

## MAR 08 2003

**U of A Philosophers' Cafe** An opportunity for the public to engage in informal, lively conversation about a philosophical or topical issue. Free admission. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Nina's Restaurant 10139 - 124 Street TOPIC: The Internet: Impact on Work and Leisure GUEST SCHOLAR: Wes Cooper, Professor of Philosophy MODERATOR: Martin Tweedale, Professor of Philosophy

**Searching the Literature for CAM Evidence** Explore ways of searching for evidence-based information on Complementary and Alternative Medicine in a hands-on computer training workshop. Searching the literature is necessary before designing any research study. Learn about the best databases and websites. Computer experience and some Internet searching experience is required. Location: Cameron Library Building, Room B-11. From 12 noon - 3 p.m.

**Career and Placement Services (CaPS)** Workshops for Science/Engineering Students. Find out what employers expect and prefer regarding your resume and interview conduct. Yes, we've done the surveys and compiled the research. Pre-register today

at CaPS, 2-100 SUB. 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Location: CaPS Classroom; 4-02 SUB. Web site: [www.ualberta.ca/caps](http://www.ualberta.ca/caps)

**Career and Placement Services (CaPS)** Career Selection for Arts Students. Find out all your career options as an Art student! You'll hear success stories, develop a self-portrait & more. Pre-register today at CaPS, 2-100 SUB. Location: CaPS Resource Centre; 2-100 SUB. 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Web site: [www.ualberta.ca/caps](http://www.ualberta.ca/caps)

**Career and Placement Services (CaPS)** Resume Writing & Interview Skills workshops for Science/Engineering Students. Find out what employers expect and prefer when it comes to your resume & interview conduct. Pre-register today at CaPS, 2-100 SUB. Location: Rm 4-02 SUB. 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. Web site: [www.ualberta.ca/caps](http://www.ualberta.ca/caps)

## MAR 09 2003

**Department of Music** Master of Music Recital, Julie Amundsen, cello. Free admission. Convocation Hall. 4:00 p.m.

**Career and Placement Services (CaPS)** Workshop: Career Decision Making Strategies. Choosing or changing your program of study? Then, this workshop's for you! Pre-register today at CaPS, 2-100 SUB. 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Location: Rm 4-02 SUB. Web site: [www.ualberta.ca/caps](http://www.ualberta.ca/caps)

## MAR 10 2003

**Recruit Candidate** Dr. Michael G. Sacher, Scientist, Montreal Network for Proteomics and Structural Genomics, McGill University, "How to TRAPP a transport vesicle: a mechanism for specificity in membrane traffic." From 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., 5-10 Medical Sciences Building. Web site: [www.ualberta.ca/cellbiology](http://www.ualberta.ca/cellbiology)

**University Teaching Services** Sharon Bond-Moore, Rehabilitation Medicine, facilitates a session on "Listening and Teaching: The Critical Link." Listening is the most basic of language skills and is necessary for meaningful oral communication. This session investigates a model of listening that can be used as a framework for educators to improve their listening skills and thus enhance student learning. 3:00-4:30 p.m., CAB 243. Web site: [www.ualberta.ca/~uts](http://www.ualberta.ca/~uts)

**Department of Biological Sciences** Department of Biological Sciences Botany 600 Seminar Series. Mark Wolansky, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta presents a seminar on "Gene silencing in plants II," at 12:00 noon in Room M-149 of the Biological Sciences Building. Web site: <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/bot600/>

**Department of Music** Music at Noon, Convocation Hall Student Recital Series featuring students from the Department of Music. Free admission. 12:10 p.m.

## MAR 11 2003

**Alberta 3rd Annual Speaker's Series** Alberta 3rd Annual Speaker's Series - Planting Seeds of Doubt. Taking a stand against genetically engineered wheat in Canada. 7:30 p.m. Location: ETLC, Suncor Room, U of A, 91 Ave. & 116 St. Web site: <http://www.ualberta.ca/PARKLAND/contents.html#Events>

**Department of English** Dianne Hicks Morrow will read from her poetry at 2:00 p.m. Location: HC L-3.

**Concert** During the National Week of the Francophonie Faculté Saint-Jean presents a Piano Concert by Dr. Jacques Després at the Muttart Recital Hall, 10050 Macdonald Drive, Edmonton. Admission: \$10 Student: \$5. For information: 465-8600. Location: Alberta College Conservatory of Music. 7:30 p.m.

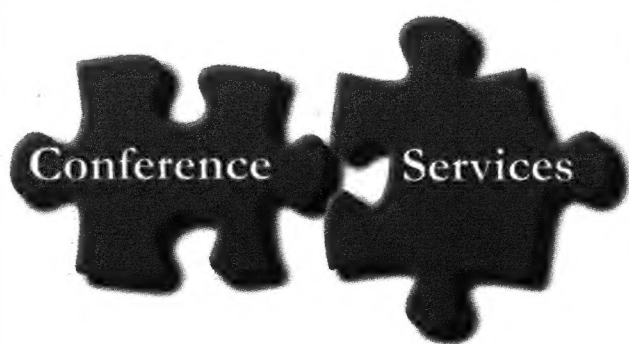
## MAR 12 2003

**Centre for Research on Literacy** Centre for Research on Literacy Research Luncheon Seminar. Bob Bruinsma, Department of Education, The King's University College, will present "Reading and Faith." From 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. in 651a Education South. As a light lunch is catered, please RSVP by March 10, 2003 to Paula Kelly, Centre for Research on Literacy, at 492-4250 ext. 292 or [paula.kelly@ualberta.ca](mailto:paula.kelly@ualberta.ca)

**Department of Public Health Sciences** PHS Colloquium & Grand Rounds. 12 Noon - 12:50 p.m. Guest Speaker: Mr. Don Juzwishin, Director, Health Technology Assessment at the Alberta Heritage for Medical Research: "Health Technology Assessment - Advancing the EBDM Agenda in Alberta." Location: 2-117, Clinical Sciences Building. Web site: [www.phs.ualberta.ca](http://www.phs.ualberta.ca)

**Career and Placement Services (CaPS)** Recreation Career Forum. Guest speakers from AMA, Alberta Recreation & Parks Association, Municipal

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Affairs, Markets International Inc., and more. Tickets just \$4 at CaPS! Location: Rm PE E-120. 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Web site: [www.ualberta.ca/caps](http://www.ualberta.ca/caps)

MAR 13 2003

**Career and Placement Services (CaPS)**  
Film & Television Career Forum. Guest speakers from ACCESS TV, IATSE 210 and more! Tickets just \$4 at CaPS. 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Web site: [www.ualberta.ca/caps](http://www.ualberta.ca/caps)

**World Music Concert 2003-¡BOMBA! Live at Power Plant** The Canadian Centre for Ethnomusicology's annual World Music Concert will take place at 8 p.m. at the Power Plant on the University of Alberta Campus. ¡Bomba! is a group of young Canadian musicians with varied cultural backgrounds, dedicated to exploring the rhythms and melodies from across the Americas. Their sound incorporates Cuban, Brazilian samba, Afro-Peruvian lando, modern jazz, and funk. Place: Power Plant, University of Alberta. Tickets: \$8 for students/seniors and \$12 adults. Tickets available at the Department of Music Main Office in 3-82 Fine Arts Building and at the door. For more info, please call the Canadian Centre for Ethnomusicology (492-8211), or visit our web site: [www.arts.ualberta.ca/ethnomusicology](http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/ethnomusicology)

**Department of History and Classics**  
Colloquium. Mr. Allan Rowe will present a paper on "Manacles or Manitoba: Irish Immigration and the Canadian West, 1881-1914." Coffee and donuts will be served, and all are welcome. 3:30 p.m. Location: Tory 2-58.

**Department of Physics** Department of Physics Colloquium. Time: 3:30 p.m. Room V-120. Title: "4-D Imaging and Tracking of Micro-structures and Organisms in Microfluidics and Biology with Digital In-line Holography." Speaker: Professor H.J. Kreuzer, Department of Physics and Atmospheric Sciences, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

**Department of Music** Doctor of Music Recital, Bianca Baciu, piano. Program will include works by Rachmaninov, Ravel and Messiaen. Free admission. 8:00 p.m.

**Colloquium** Event sponsored by Mathematical and Statistical Sciences Department. David Bao of Houston University will present "Are Riemannian metrics adequate on windy days?" Location: CAB 657. 3:30 p.m.

**Department of Physiology** Dr. John V. Tyberg, Dept. Physiology & Biophysics, University of Calgary, will speak on "The Rehabilitation of Otto

Frank's Windkessel: Some Musings of an MD/PhD Physiologist." Time: 1:00 p.m. Location: Classroom F, 214.02 WMC.

**Department of Political Science** Morris Maduro, University of Alberta, presents lecture "The Northwest Passage, Canada, and the United States: On a Collision Course in Troubled Waters." 3:30 p.m. Location: Tory 10-4.

**Department of English** F.M. Salter Lectures on Language. At this year's lecture, Dr. Greg Hollingshead will present "Working the Air Loom: On Writing Eighteenth-century Fiction." 3:30 p.m. Location: HC L-3

**Lecture by Jeremy Rossiter** Lecture by Jeremy Rossiter (Classics): "Rome in Africa: A Decade of Archaeology in Carthage." Dr. Rossiter has himself directed excavations at Carthage for a number of years. Joint meeting with the Archaeological Institute of America. Refreshments available. All are welcome. Location: Humanities Centre L1. 7 p.m.

**Online Teaching Resources: Finding the Needle in the Haystack** There is a multitude of web-based learning resources available, but how do you find them? Search engines do not screen for educational materials at the post-secondary level and frequently return a massive number of inappropriate returns. One of the most interesting developments in the field of technology-enhanced education is the movement to collect and catalogue online learning resources. The U of A is involved in a number of partnerships to develop models of peer-review of online resources as well as accessibility and distribution of these through both open source and rights management systems. Attendees will find out about online repositories of subject specific teaching materials and an understanding of the importance of digital management in enhancing and fast-tracking the course development process. Presenter: Ellen Whybrow. Time: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Location: Telus 214/216. Web site: <http://www.atl.ualberta.ca/>

**Watersheds, Wetlands and Oceans** Dr. John Smol, Biological Sciences, Queen's University, "Water Quality, Climate Change, and Pacific Salmon Stocks: It's as Clear as Mud!" 4:30 p.m. Location: 1 013 Engineering Teaching Learning Centre. Web site: [www.ualberta.ca/ERSC/es.htm](http://www.ualberta.ca/ERSC/es.htm)

MAR 14 2003

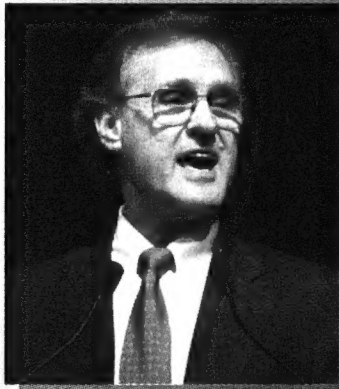
**Department of Biological Sciences**  
Department of Biological Sciences Biology 631 Ecology Seminar Series. John Smol, Department of

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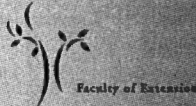


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Biology, Queen's University, presents a talk on "Arctic lakes and ponds: A window on the past, a view to the future" (ERCS visitor). 12:00 Noon in Room M-149 of the Biological Sciences Building. Web site: <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/biol631/>

### Department of Biological Sciences

Department of Biological Sciences Molecular Biology and Genetics Research Group and Genetics 605 Seminar Series. George Chaconis, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Bacterial Pathogenesis Research Group, University of Calgary presents "The unusual genome and replication strategy of *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the Lyme disease spirochete," at 3:30 p.m. in Room M-149 of the Biological Sciences Building. Web site: <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/genet605/>

**Department of Music** Faculty and Friends, Roger Admiral, Joachim Segger, Music for Two Pianos. Howard Bashaw Two Movements for Two Pianos. Gyorgy Ligeti Three Portraits. Claude Debussy En Blanc et Noir. Witold Lutoslawski Variations on a Theme by Paganini. Sergei Rachmaninoff Suite, Op. 17. Convocation Hall. Tickets: \$12/adult, \$7/Student/senior. 8:00 p.m.

### Thirty-seventh Annual Shevchenko

**Lecture** Orest M. Kruhlak, Former Director, Multiculturalism Program, Department of the Secretary of State, will give the lecture, "Multiculturalism in Canada: What Was Intended and What Has It Become?" Mr Kruhlak held positions in government responsible for heritage, culture and multiculturalism from the 1970s until his retirement in 2002. Location: Education North, 2-115. 7:30 p.m.

**University Teaching Services** Gail Amort-Larson, Occupational Therapy, presents a session on "Anatomy of a Course: The Ins and Outs." Within the current technological environment, teaching and learning have become an exciting and dynamic process. This session looks at creating a multi-media, online distance education course in human anatomy verses a classroom anatomy course. 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. Education South, 1-29. Web site: [www.ualberta.ca/~uts](http://www.ualberta.ca/~uts)

### MAR 15 2003

#### Career and Placement Services (CaPS)

Resume Writing & Interview Skills for Health Sciences Students. Do you know what employers expect when it comes to your resume or interview skills? Find out in a CaPS workshop! Pre-register today at 2-100 SUB. Location: Rm 4-02 SUB. 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. Web site: [www.ualberta.ca/caps](http://www.ualberta.ca/caps)

**Department of Music** University of Alberta Madrigal Singers, Dinner and Silent Auction. Leonard Ratzlaff, conductor. Fairmont Hotel MacDonald. Tickets: \$70 (\$30 tax deductible). For more information call 492-5306. 6:00 p.m.

### MAR 16 2003

**Department of Music** The University of Alberta Academy Strings and Orchestral Winds. Tanya Prochazka, Conductor. Convocation Hall. 8:00 p.m.

### MAR 17 2003

#### Department of Biological Sciences

Department of Biological Sciences Botany 600 Seminar Series. John Klironomos, University of Guelph, presents a talk on "The functional significance of native and exotic mycorrhizal fungi" at 12:00 noon in M-149 of the Biological Sciences Building. Web site: <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/bot600/>

#### Department of Computing Science

Computing Science - Distinguished Lecture Series. Paul Dantzig from IBM TJ Watson Research Center, Hawthorne will present a lecture entitled "Architecture and Design of High Volume Web Sites." Please join us for coffee and cookies at 3 p.m. Location: CSC B-02. Web site: <http://www.cs.ualberta.ca/events/dls/>

**Recruit Candidate** Marek Los, MD/PhD, University of Münster, Institute of Experimental Dermatology, Münster, Germany. Title of talk: "Novel cancer therapy approaches." From 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., 5-10 Medical Sciences Building. Web site: [www.ualberta.ca/cellbiology](http://www.ualberta.ca/cellbiology)

**Department of Medical Genetics** Event sponsored by Department of Medical Genetics/Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research. External Examiner for Ph.D Defense. Dr. Samuel Weiss, Professor Department of Genes & Development Research Group, University of Calgary will be presenting his talk "Stem Cell Neurogenesis in the Adult Mammalian Forebrain." 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Location: 2-07 HMRC.

**Department of Medical Genetics** Thesis Defence Seminar. Ms. Syann Lee will be delivering her talk "Of Mice and Men: Identification and expression patterns of Prader-Willi Syndrome candidate genes in mice and humans." Education Building - Rm 165, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

### MAR 18 2003

**Department of English** Karen Solie. This reading is sponsored by the Canada Council for the Arts. Time: 2:00 p.m. Location: HC L-3

**University Teaching Services** Andrew Ede,

History and Classics, presents a session on "Defense Against the Dark Arts: Detection and Prevention of Cyber-Plagiarism." This session looks at common clues that indicate plagiarism and introduces the use of meta search engines to trace sources. Some simple strategies to reduce plagiarism will also be discussed. 3:30-5:00 p.m., CAB 265. Web site: [www.ualberta.ca/~uts](http://www.ualberta.ca/~uts)

### MAR 19 2003

**Department of Music** The University of Alberta Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Fordyce Pier, Director. Convocation Hall. 8:00 p.m.

**Canadian Studies Café** The Canadian Studies Centre of the Faculté Saint-Jean cordially invites you to a Canadian Studies Café from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The speaker will be Phyllis Dalley and the topic will be "Francophone schools and communities in Alberta." The presentation will be bilingual (English-French). Admission is free and a light snack will be served. For additional information, please call 465-8716. Location: Cité francophone, 8627 - 91 Street.

**Department of Public Health Sciences** PHS Colloquium & Grand Rounds. Dr. Jeremy Grimshaw, Centre for Knowledge Transfer, will be speaking on "Cluster Randomised Trials of Professional and Organisational Behaviour Change Interventions in Health Care Settings." From 12 Noon - 12:50 p.m. Location: Room 2-117, Clinical Sciences Building. Web site: [www.phs.ualberta.ca](http://www.phs.ualberta.ca)

**Cabane à sucre** The Faculté Saint-Jean Students Association (AUFJ) is pleased to invite you to its Cabane à sucre held at the "Quad" of the University of Alberta from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. In the spirit of the Francophone tradition, join the folk dancers, musicians and of course the sampling of maple syrup in the snow. For more information, please call 485-8633. Free admission.

**Faculty of Extension - Stephen Lewis** The University of Alberta Faculty of Extension is hosting a free public lecture at the TELUS Centre for Professional Development at 7:00 p.m. Veteran Diplomat, politician, and humanitarian Stephen Lewis will be speaking on the topic, "Rethinking the Public University in a Global Village." For more information contact Lisa Lammi at 492-2408. Location: TELUS Centre for Professional Development.

**Graduate Students Association** "The extended organism: is conservation moral, unnatural, and impossible?" Dr. Ronald Brooks, of the University of Guelph, will discuss the formation of environmental conservation ethics, from a Darwinian perspective, explaining why humans are wasteful of natural resources. This talk will be at 5:00 p.m., and will be followed by a discussion. Location: ESB 3-27.

**PHS Colloquium & Grand Rounds** Event sponsored by Department of Public Health Sciences. Dr. Jeremy Grimshaw, Professor, Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa, presents: "Cluster Randomised Trials of Professional and Organisational Behaviour Change Interventions in Health Care Settings." Location: Room 2-117, Clinical Sciences Building. 12 Noon - 12:50 p.m. Web site: [www.phs.ualberta.ca](http://www.phs.ualberta.ca)

#### R.U. Lemieux Lecture on Biotechnology

Dr. Raymond A. Dwek, Director of the Glycobiology Institute and Head of the Department of Biochemistry, Oxford University, will speak on "Glycosylation and Disease Targets." 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Location: 2-115 Education North.

**University Teaching Services** Karen Kovach, Academic Support Centre, presents on "The Construction of Course Outlines." Without realizing it, instructors can provide a great deal of information in their course outlines - everything from the level of knowledge acquisition they expect of their students to a clear structure of the topic of the course. Not only does this information benefit students who read the course outline, but it also helps instructors structure their topics so that their courses "flow" from one concept to the other. Organization of course outlines is the basis of this session. 3:00-4:30 p.m., CAB 281. Web site: [www.ualberta.ca/~uts](http://www.ualberta.ca/~uts)

#### University of Alberta Music Students in

**Recital** The Edmonton Opera Guild presents University of Alberta Music Students in Recital. Non-profit event featuring music students singing excerpts from Mozart's "The Magic Flute" and Other Musical Favourites. Starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$8.00/adult; \$5.00/student. Tickets at the door or Opera Guild members: Joan, 465-1197; Anne Marie, 466-9926. Location: Papaschase Room, Faculty Club, UofA Campus.

### MAR 20 2003

**University Teaching Services** David Cook, Studies in Medical Education, Rosemarie Cunningham, Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Sharla King, InterProfessional Initiative, Janice Pimlott, Dentistry, and Elizabeth Taylor, Occupational Therapy, facilitate a session entitled "Putting the Horse Before the Cart: Team Process Skills to Facilitate Learning." Participants in this workshop will learn essential facilitation skills to guide and support students through the processes of learning and working together. Strategies such as giving and receiving effective feedback, establishing team roles, resolving conflict, and



individual and team reflection will be explored. 4:00-6:00 p.m. Education South, 1-22. Web site: [www.ualberta.ca/~uts](http://www.ualberta.ca/~uts)

**Watersheds, Wetlands and Oceans**  
Dr. Martin Sharp, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, UofA, "What's going on on Canada's Arctic glaciers?" 4:30 p.m. Location: 1 013 Engineering Teaching Learning Centre.  
Web site: [www.ualberta.ca/ERSC/es.htm](http://www.ualberta.ca/ERSC/es.htm)

**A Hybrid Model for Active Learning**  
Connie Varnhagen has developed hybrid sections of a large enrolment introductory psychology courses that promote a high degree of learning both within the context of the text and lecture and online. Her model is unique at the University of Alberta and highly successful. Connie will showcase her courses, their goals and results, and discuss her experiences both from a development and an instructional perspective. Time: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Location: Telus 214/216. Web site: <http://www.atl.ualberta.ca/>

**MAR 20 - 21 2003**

**14th Annual Warren E. Kalbach Conference**  
14th Annual Warren E. Kalbach Conference. Thursday March 20th, 9:00-4:00 Friday March 21st, 9:00 - 4:00. Thursday's program features the research projects conducted by the U of A Population Research Laboratory, the only facility of its kind in Western Canada. Friday's program focuses upon issues of Aboriginal demography, and includes presentations by the faculty of Sociology, the School of Native Studies, the department of Native and Northern Affairs, and Statistics Canada. Location: Tory Breezeway TBW2.

**MAR 21 2003**

**Cops for Cancer Head Shave 2003**  
Students and staff of the University of Alberta, Students' Union staff, Campus Security Services members and members of law enforcement, emergency and fire services will be joining together to shave their heads in the fight against cancer. All pledge proceeds will be donated to the Canadian Cancer Society's cancer research programs. Time: 8:30 a.m. For more information, email [cops4can@telus.net](mailto:cops4can@telus.net) or telephone 492-5050. Location: New SUB Stage - Students' Union Building main floor. Web site:

# notices

Please send notices attention Folio, 6th floor General Services Building, University of Alberta, T6G 2H1 or e-mail [publicaffairs@ualberta.ca](mailto:publicaffairs@ualberta.ca). Notices should be received by 3 p.m. one week prior to publication.

**NOMINATIONS FOR 3M TEACHING FELLOWSHIPS SOUGHT**

Nominations for 3M Teaching Fellowships are now being accepted. The fellowships are awarded by the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education and 3M Canada Inc. Any individual teaching at a Canadian university (regardless of discipline or level of appointment) is eligible. An exclusive three-day (November 1- 3, 2003), all-expenses-paid retreat at the Le Chateau Montebello is the main component of the award.  
Up to 10 awards are given annually. The University of Alberta has received 23 awards during the 17-year existence of the national 3M Teaching Fellowships Program.  
Nomination information is available at University Teaching Services, 215 Central Academic Building, 492-2826 or at the following website: <http://www.tss.uoguelph.ca/stl/he>. Dossiers are to reach the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education by April 25, 2003, but if a letter from the Vice-President (Academic) is required, the nomination package must reach UTS by 12 noon, April 11, 2003.

**THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**  
Announces a Call for Research Proposals

[www.cps.ualberta.ca/Cops4Cancer.asp](http://www.cps.ualberta.ca/Cops4Cancer.asp)  
**Department of Biological Sciences**  
Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta Biology 631 Ecology Seminar Series. Edward Bork, Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science, University of Alberta presents "Practical lessons for agriculture: when is a good offense the best defense against weeds?" 12:00 noon in M-149 Biological Sciences Building. Web site: <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/biol631/index.php?Page=595>

**Department of Dentistry** Brown Bag Lunch Hour Seminar. Dr. Dennis Haas, Associate Program Director, Division of Orthodontics, Indiana University School of Dentistry, will speak on "Glenoid Fossae" from 12:00 - 12:50 p.m. Location: 4069 Dentistry/Pharmacy Centre.

**Department of Public Health Sciences** Dr. Steve Hudey, Professor of Environmental Health Sciences, will present: "Quantitative insights on using environmental evidence for decision making." 2:00 p.m. Location: 10-120 Clinical Sciences Building.

**University Teaching Services** John Hoddinott, Biological Sciences, Connie Varnhagen, Psychology, Stanley Varnhagen, Academic Technologies for Learning, and Katy Campbell, Academic Technologies for Learning will facilitate a session on "Quality Improvement in the First Year Large Enrolment Courses." Much of the instruction of first year university courses takes place in large enrolment classes. Our research examined the thoughts and expectations of students in large classes in Biological Science and Psychology. Senior students were also asked to reflect on their first year experience; and instructors were asked about their thoughts on large enrolment classes. This session will share research findings. Noon to 1:00 p.m., CAB 219. Web site: [www.ualberta.ca/~uts](http://www.ualberta.ca/~uts)

**MAR 22 2003**

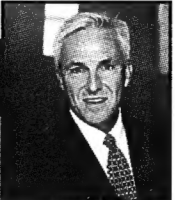
**Philosophers' Cafe** Event sponsored by Office of Public Affairs. Nina's Restaurant, 10139 - 124 Street. Topic: Snowbirds in the Desert: Do they Belong? A discussion of Canada's role in the Iraqi crisis. Guest Scholar: Tom Keating, Professor of Political Science. Moderator: Martin Tweedale, Professor of Philosophy. From 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

The Department of Sociology invites research proposals to carry out studies on impaired driving or other related social policy problems such as chronic alcoholism, traffic safety, etc.  
Interest from an endowment made by REID (Research and Education on Impaired Driving) will be used to fund the successful research proposal(s). The maximum amount available this round is \$13,000, which may be used to fund one research project or divided between two (or more) smaller projects.  
The competition is open to any University member conducting research relating to impaired driving or other related social policy problems such as chronic alcoholism, traffic safety, etc. It will be adjudicated by a panel of five members (three from the University and two from the contributing organization)  
Proposals should be submitted to:  
Dr. R. Sydie, Chair  
Department of Sociology  
University of Alberta  
5-21 HM Tory Building  
Edmonton AB T6G 2H4  
The competition will close on March 15, 2003. If you have any questions, please contact Fay Sylvester by e-mail: [fay.sylvester@ualberta.ca](mailto:fay.sylvester@ualberta.ca)

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# positions

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### DIRECTOR OFFICE OF PLACEMENT SERVICES AND BUSINESS CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Reporting to the Dean, the director, Office of Placement Services and Business Co-operative Education, is accountable for the development and monitoring of School of Business undergraduate student placement activities, including career development, on-campus recruitment, employer contacts and the management of the Business Co-operative Education Program. The director maintains the academic integrity of the Business Co-operative Education Program, ensures its continuing accreditation and determines program size. Co-ordination of placement and co-operative education activities with other School of Business and university units and initiating and maintaining contacts with potential employers are essential. Five staff report to the director. Overall, the director ensures that the professional and academic image of the School of Business is effectively promoted through the activities of the office. Salary range \$43,200 - \$71,200.

An undergraduate or graduate degree in Commerce or Business and a minimum of 10 years' work experience are required. Strong interpersonal, communication, organizational and computing skills are necessary. Experience in the areas of training, teaching, career planning and placement are an asset. Applicants will be required to travel to work sites to monitor students on the job.

Interested applicants should apply by March 18, 2003 to the attention of:  
Claudette deBruijn  
Director, Office of Placement Services and Business Co-operative Education  
2-21 School of Business  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, AB T6G 2R6

implementing, and evaluating the programs designed to build a long-term base of support for the University of Alberta. A key leader in the U of A development community, the position is responsible for managing a maturing and evolving program that includes an aggressive and creative direct mail and telemarketing component; close collaboration with Faculties and other development partners on various special initiatives. The manager, Annual Giving, is responsible for these programs and the initiation of new programs, as well as setting annual dollar objectives, establishing strategies to reach those objectives, and monitoring progress against objectives. The position generates increasing levels and numbers of gifts from alumni and friends through effective annual giving solicitation. Further, the manager is responsible for annual giving budget administration and the maintenance of a high level of record and database integrity and operations effectiveness.

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Undergraduate degree.

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This is a continuing Administrative/Professional Officer position with a comprehensive benefit package. Salary range is \$43,901 - \$69,507 depending on qualifications. Please send a résumé in confidence by March 14, 2003 (although the position will remain open until filled) to:

Marilyn Monson  
Associate Director of Development  
Development Office  
University of Alberta  
6th Floor, General Services Building  
Edmonton AB T6G 2H1  
e-mail: [corrine.caithness@ualberta.ca](mailto:corrine.caithness@ualberta.ca)

### ADMINISTRATIVE/ PROFESSIONAL OFFICER DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY

Reporting to the chair, Department of Public Health Sciences, the Administrative/Professional Officer (APO) is accountable for the provision of efficient and effective administrative support for the operation and management of the department and its teaching and research programs. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, budget planning and analysis; contract management; overseeing student programs; co-ordinating, directing and assessing the performance of support staff; providing executive assistance to the chair, associate chair and executive committee; and analyzing, interpreting and implementing university, faculty, and department policies in order to ensure optimal allocation of departmental finances, human resources, equipment and facilities.

This diverse position in a dynamic department will be of interest to a highly motivated, enthusiastic and energetic individual who has the ability to work positively and effectively with individuals and groups, both outside and within the university community.

The qualified applicant will have an undergraduate or graduate degree, plus a minimum of five years' experience in a university research and teaching environment. S/he must possess excellent leadership, organizational, analytical and communication skills. The applicant must be proficient in using information systems and programs such as Microsoft Word and Excel plus all PeopleSoft Reporting and Production modules; as well as be familiar with the policies and procedures of academic, financial, research services and human resources administrative units.

The salary range is \$42,452 - \$67,218 depending on qualifications and experience. Starting date for this position is mid-April. Interested applicants should apply by March 14, 2003 to the attention of:

Dr. Nicola Cherry  
Chair, Department of Public Health Sciences  
13-103 Clinical Sciences Bldg.  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, AB T6G 2G3

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The successful candidate will provide dynamic and innovative leadership to the faculty during an important period of regeneration which includes development of research initiatives, program development and change, and recruitment of faculty and graduate students. Applicants will have strong academic qualifications and a strong commitment to excellence in teaching and research. Candidates must hold a doctorate and have demonstrated academic leadership, excellent interpersonal skills, the ability to motivate and work efficiently with faculty, staff and students and effective interaction with the larger university and professional community. The incumbent is a candidate for the position.

The appointment will normally be for a five-year term, commencing July 1, 2003. Salary will be commensurate with experience. The application deadline is March 21, 2003. Applicants should submit a current curriculum vitae, statement of research interests, an example of recently published work, and the names of three referees to:

Dr. Larry Beauchamp, Dean  
Faculty of Education  
University of Alberta  
845 Education South  
Edmonton, AB T6G 2G5

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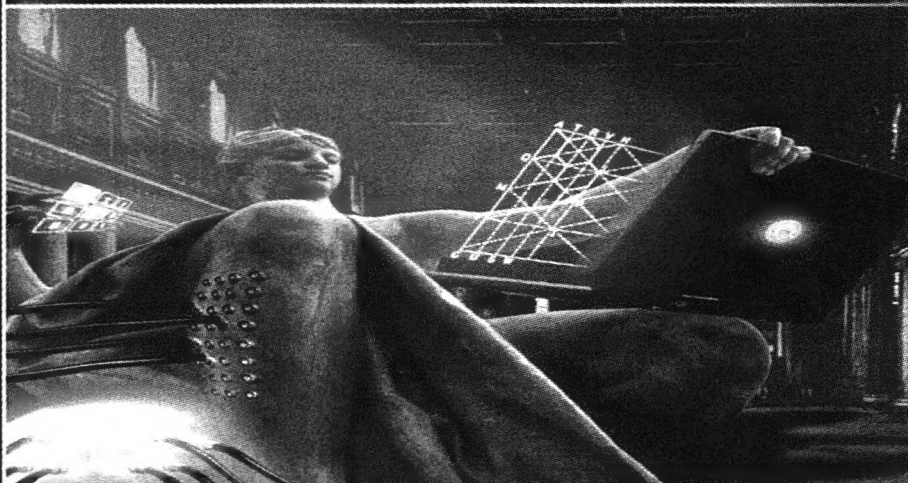
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**PROFESSIONAL WILL HOUSE-SIT,** short term or long term. Henri, 716-3555.

**INVITED PROFESSOR FROM ENGLAND** and wife need furnished accommodation convenient for U of A. June 1 – September 18. House-sitting, renting and shorter periods considered. John, 439-5254, 492-1064.

**GOVERNMENT MANAGER** relocating to Edmonton requires temporary accommodation for April. (780) 743-1619.

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**PROFESSOR FROM SWEDEN** with family wishes to rent fully furnished four bedroom home close to campus August 2003 for one year. References. Phone Jarmila at 492-6187.

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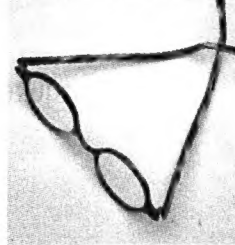
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# The intruder-detecting, hissing snake lamp

## ...and other fantastic inventions

Design students tackle elementary products

By Geoff McMaster

In the market for a snake-head lamp that doubles as a burglar alarm? How about a chair that doubles as a lamp? Or a combination bookcase – fish tank?

Such innovative items may not be available in stores yet, but thanks to a partnership of elementary students and senior design students at the University of Alberta, they exist at least in 3-D computer form.

Eight-year old Eugene Clarke, a Grade 3 student from McCauley School, couldn't have been more impressed when he saw his original sketch come to life on the computer screen.

"Oh, that's awesome! How did you make my snake head so cool?" he asked design student Terry Cooke, during a presentation of final designs to the Grade 3 students. "I like the teeth. It's sweet!" Clarke's *Snake Head Lamp 2003*, refined by Cooke, even has an alarm that senses the presence of intruders and hisses at them.

"People have been stealing from people and kids and hurting people lately," said Eugene. "But if you had one of these in your house, with a scanner that could see right through the wall, it would hiss at the burglar and scare him away."

Cooke first got the idea for the collaboration when he met design alumnus Chet Domanski through a volunteer professional association called Media

Art and Design Exposed. Domanski's wife, Jennifer, is a teacher at McCauley school, and because part of the Grade 3 curriculum involves building with various materials and building objects with a purpose, the project seemed like the perfect fit.

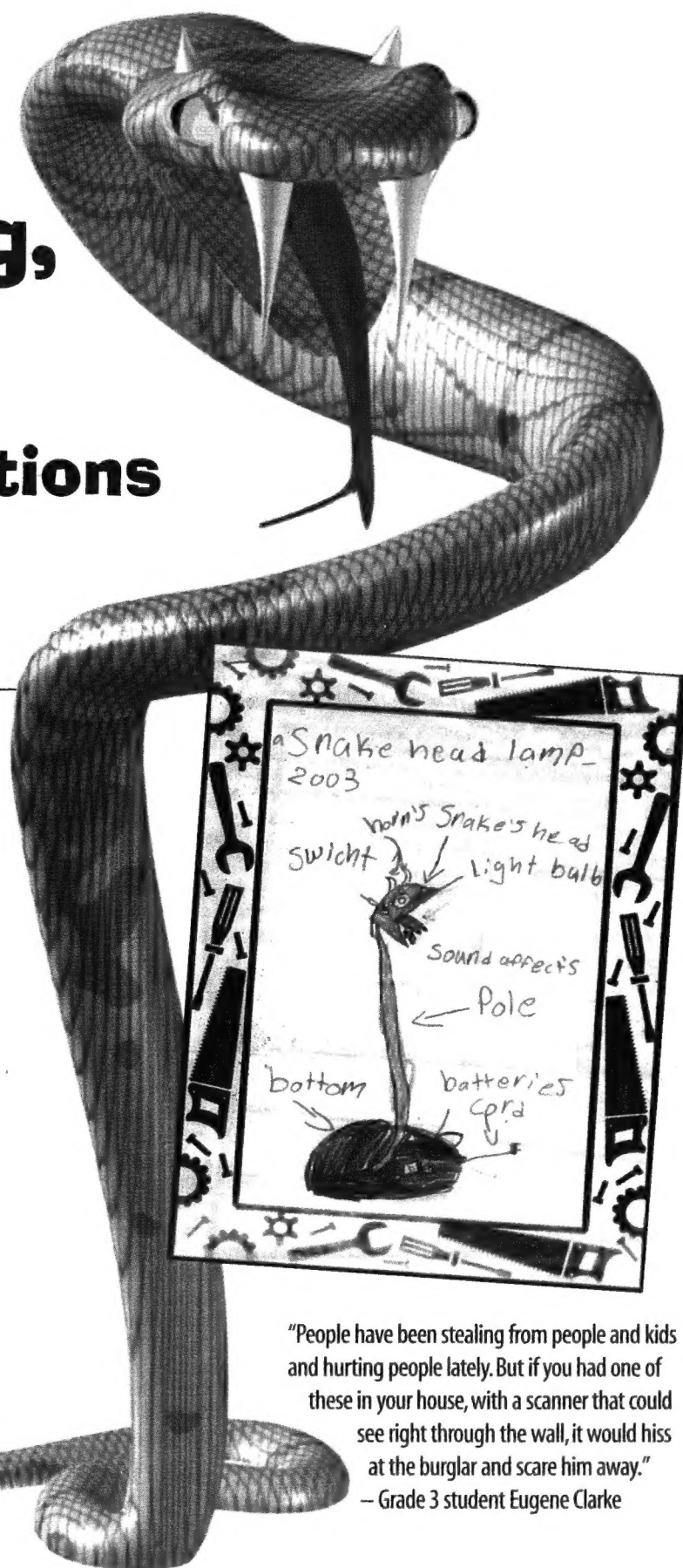
So in January, the 18 Grade 3 students brought in drawings and even clay models of their concepts for dual-purpose furniture. They toured the U of A design studio and then all had one-on-one consultations with design students, to work out practical details.

Some of the concepts included a

pyramid shelving unit with a clock and lamp, a cat-shaped bed with its own storage space, a *HiLo* sofa that accommodates both big and little people, and a bath tub with built-in juice machine.

"Some of the kids are really creative, and the beauty of what they do is that they're not bound by preconceived ideas or limitations on material processes. They just know what they want," said design instructor Rob Lederer. "And that's great because our students have to say, 'Okay, how can we in some way give the perception that it could be made?'"

"I'm telling you, the kids sat down one-on-one and worked for 45 minutes.



"People have been stealing from people and kids and hurting people lately. But if you had one of these in your house, with a scanner that could see right through the wall, it would hiss at the burglar and scare him away."  
— Grade 3 student Eugene Clarke

They were so intense. I think they could have stayed for another hour."

Domanski admits being surprised by her class's concentration. "My kids aren't usually like that," she said. "This is a group that really has trouble with attention, and they loved it."

Lederer said that, for his own students, the project was an opportunity to learn how to communicate with clients who have strong ideas about what they want. According to Cooke, it wasn't a huge leap for the two groups to connect.

"Everyone in design is pretty much a big kid, so everyone clicked," said Cooke, adding, however, that "it was surprising

how true it was to a real client relationship. One of us would try to make a change and the kid would say, 'No, I already have it figured out this way.'"

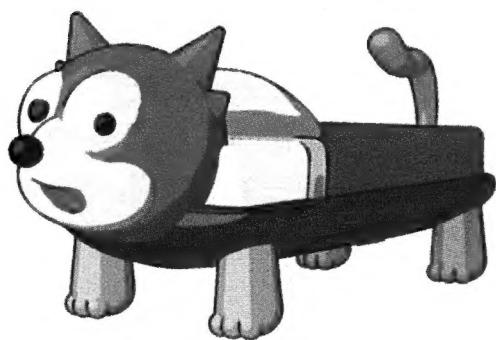
Posters demonstrating the process, with both the initial sketches and the computer designs, will be submitted to The Works festival of visual arts for possible display in June, he said.

Whether or not any of these designs is ever built, however, is still up in the air, says Lederer. "It depends how far the kids want to take it."

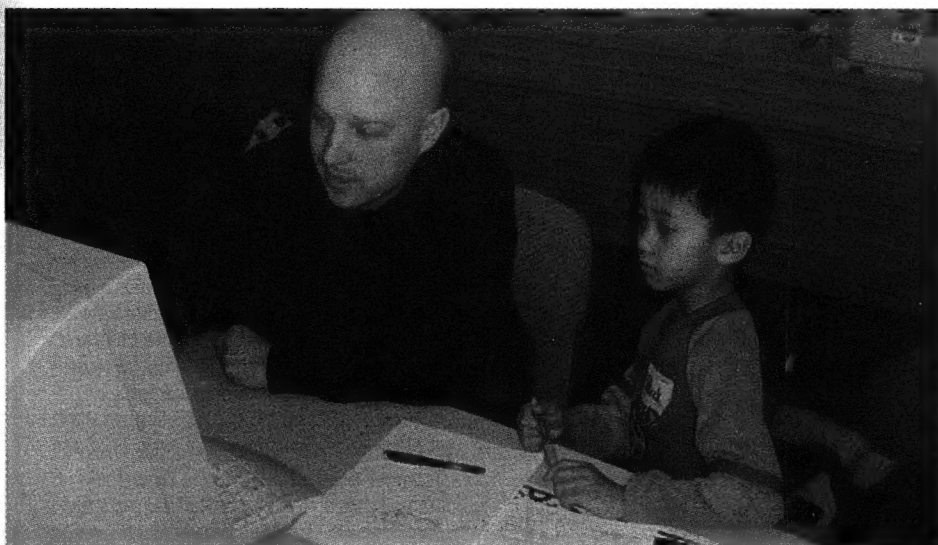
"But you never know which one of them might continue doing this stuff. You have to start them when they're young."

### Ben Bed.

by Michelle and Reid



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University of Alberta Industrial design students recently teamed up with Grade 3 students from McCauley School, to help take concepts from the young students to the design stage. The project gave younger students a chance to tour the Industrial Design shop and offered the U of A students a chance to work with clients who had definite ideas of the products they wanted designed.